

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for the phone interview on October 17, 2006 regarding the Advisory Action. Pursuant to our discussions, this response is submitted to supplement the earlier response of September 25, 2006 to the final Office Action mailed July 27, 2006.

Claims 1-8 and 11-17 have been canceled. Claims 9 and 10, which were objected to in the final Office Action, have been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the language from the original independent claim 1. New claims 18-31 have been added to depend from rewritten claim 9 or claim 10. Subject matter in claims 18-31 is the same as those in the original claims 2-8, and no new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following discussion, Applicant submits that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated or obvious under the respective provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103.

It is to be understood that, by amending the claims, Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to Applicant's subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, Applicant is not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant response including amendments.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-8 and 11-16 have been canceled, and their rejections are therefore moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has objected to claims 9, 10, and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Applicant has canceled claim 17, and rewritten claims 9 and 10 in independent form. Thus, claims 9 and 10 are now in condition of allowance.

New claims 18-24 and 25-31 have been added to depend from independent claims 9 and 10, respectively. Claims 18-24 and 25-31 are derived from original claims 2-8, except that they have been written to depend from the objected to claims 9-10. No new matter has been added as a result of these new claims. Since the rewritten claims 9-10 are in condition for allowance, Applicant submits that claims 18-31 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

Thus, Applicant submits that none of the claims presently in the application are anticipated or obvious under the respective provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Eamon J. Wall, at (732) 530-9404, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/19/06



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